Amendments to the Claims:

Re-write the claims as set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A procedural computation engine embodied in a hardware computing system for generating and serving executable high-level code comprising:

a graphical user interface ~~Graphical User Interface~~ for creating procedural computation schemas;

a parser for interpreting output from the graphical user interface ~~Graphical User Interface~~;

a compilation component for hierarchal node-structuring and creation of executable models based on output of the parser ~~of data~~; and

a server component for providing access to the executable models output by the compilation component ~~generated information~~;

characterized in that a programmer operating through the graphical user interface ~~Graphical User Interface~~ pre-creates at least one procedural computation schema including [[the]]at least one algorithmic function ~~or functions~~ and input needed to produce computational results, the at least one procedural computation ~~data of the~~ schema output by the graphical user interface as a markup file interpreted by the parser and in cooperation with the compilation component generates [[an]]at least one executable computation model accessible and executable through the server component.

2. (currently amended) The procedural computation engine of claim 1 wherein the graphical user interface ~~Graphical User Interface~~ is of the form of an interactive spreadsheet processing application and the computation model is a rating model.

3. (currently amended) The procedural computation engine of claim 1 wherein the parser is adapted to read Extensible Markup Language (XML) ~~XML~~ and to write in Java Document Object Model structure.

4. (currently amended) The procedural computation engine of claim 1 wherein the compilation component includes a lexical scanner and a code generator.

5. (currently amended) The procedural computation engine of claim 1 wherein the at least one executable computation model[[s]] comprises at least one ~~are~~ rate model[[s]] pre-stored for access by the server component upon request over a network connection.

6. (currently amended) The procedural computation engine of claim 1 wherein the at least one executable computation model comprises at least one ~~is a~~ rate model designated as a user function to be embedded in another rate model.

7. (currently amended) The procedural computation engine of claim 1 wherein the at least one executable computation model[[s]] comprises at least one ~~are~~ rate model[[s]] and a knowledgebase configurator has access to the at least one ~~stored~~ rate model[[s]] through one of remote method invocation or through remote call procedure over a network connection.

8. (currently amended) The procedural computation engine of claim 5 wherein the network connection is one of an Internet or an Intranet connection.

9. (currently amended) The procedural computation engine of claim 7 wherein the network connection is one of an Internet or an Intranet connection.

10. (currently amended) The procedural computation engine of claim 2 wherein the processing application can interpret Extensible Markup Language and can save data in the form of Extensible Markup Language.

11. (currently amended) A rating service embodied in a hardware computing system comprising:

a procedural computation engine having a graphical user interface for creating procedural rating schemas; a parser for interpreting output from the graphical user interface; a compilation

component for hierarchal node-structuring of data; and a server component for providing access to generated information;

a knowledgebase configurator for configuring service requests; and

a software interface application through which requests for rating are submitted;

characterized in that an end user accesses the configurator through the interface application and submits request parameters for configuration of a service request whereupon the configurator calls the server component of the procedural computation engine and selects a rate model from a pool of rate models that fits the request parameters, the rate model applied to and executed ~~within the configuration model~~ to produce ~~the~~ rating results through the application interface.

12. (original) The rating service of claim 11 wherein the software interface application is an insurance application suite.

13. (original) The rating service of claim 11 wherein the parser is adapted to read XML and to write in Java Document Object Model structure.

14. (currently amended) The rating service of claim 11 wherein the configurator is a Web-based configurator and calls the server component of the procedural computation engine using one of remote method invocation or remote call procedure.

15. (original) The rating service of claim 11 wherein a service configuration contains more than one rate model, the models individually executed according to optional scenarios.

16. (original) The rating service of claim 11 wherein a service configuration contains more than one rate model, one rate model designated as a user function embedded in another rate model.

17. (original) The rating service of claim 11 integrated with a software framework for enabling client security verification, user interface generation, workflow management, database

search functionality, and language transformation for presentation to alternate platforms and interfaces.

18. – 28. (canceled)

29. (currently amended) The procedural computation engine of claim 4 wherein the compilation component includes at least one block translator for scoping variables.

30. (currently amended) The procedural computation engine of claim 4 wherein the compilation component creates loop constructs to resolve variables in the case of a dynamic query, the loop calculations performed to create a formula.